



Welcome to Probus Primary School

Early Years Foundation Stage-

Acorns (Reception) Class

September 2020



The next chapter in your child's learning journey is about to begin!

Your child will make new friends, enjoy new experiences and learn essential life skills in a caring environment. We look forward to working with our new parents and carers.

Probus Primary School
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Teachers and Support Staff in Acorns Class

The time your child spends in school up until the end of the Reception year is known as the Early Years Foundation Stage. Acorns Class (Reception) takes place across the second year of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

We have two teachers who job share throughout the week. Mrs Lawrence and Miss Pedlar are both experienced teachers with years of working within the Early Years Foundation Stage. Mrs Lawrence is the lead Early Years Foundation Stage Teacher at Probus Primary School and works Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Miss Pedlar will work Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Schofield is our class teaching assistant and works Monday to Friday. Mr Flack is the P.E teacher and will take the class once a week delivering quality physical education.

We recognise the importance of a strong partnership between parents, carers and staff at school. This is an essential ingredient to the child's success and we encourage parents to contribute to their child's development by sharing their child's learning journey and attending parent meetings.



Mrs Lawrence



Miss Pedlar



Mrs Schofield

What you need to know about the everyday routine

The gates will open at **8:30am** and parents and children can enter the playgrounds. At **8.45am** the classroom door will open and the children will start their morning activities as soon as they arrive. The doors close at **8:55am** promptly. After this time attendance is marked as late. Please be as prompt as you can in the mornings as it can be unsettling for your child and the class if there are late arrivals.

Acorns Class will have a healthy snack of fruit and milk provided every morning. You may provide a healthy snack for your child if you would like, such as crackers, cheese, breadsticks or a preferred fruit etc. We also cook regularly as part of our learning.

Lunch is between **11.45pm - 1.00pm** Acorns class start their lunch 15 mins before the rest of the school and play in the Key Stage One playground with Year 1 and Year 2.

The school day ends at **3.10pm** (for Acorns Class and Key Stage 1).

(If you are late, please let the school know as soon as possible).

***Please note: for the safety of your child we must know who is picking them up. If you cannot collect your child yourself, please let the teacher or office know who is coming in your place. This person must know your child's password (which you stated on your application form) as they will be asked for it. We cannot let children go home with someone unless you have authorised us to do so.**

Settling in

Settling in normally takes a few days. If your child is unsettled when they arrive at school a member of staff will be available to look after and reassure them. We will then encourage parents to say goodbye and then to contact us. From experience the quicker you leave the less upsetting it is for children. A quick goodbye is less painful than extra hugs and kisses.

Attendance

If your child is unable to attend school, please phone and let us know as soon as possible. We now have attendance targets set by the Government. We **cannot** authorise holidays during term time. A form requesting leave of absence for any exceptional circumstances must be completed.

Homework

We will provide the following for you to do at home to support your child's learning:

- The phonic sounds we have learnt during the week.
- Initially a picture book to share at home, then once ready, a phonetically decodable reading book for your child to read themselves (we advise reading a little every evening).
- Tricky and high frequency words to practise.
- Letter formation practise.
- Maths and topic work half termly.

What will my child be learning?

Introduction to the Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage set standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Seeks to provide:-

- Quality and consistency in all early years settings, so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind.
- A secure foundation through learning and development opportunities which are planned around the needs and interests of each individual child and are assessed and reviewed regularly.
- A partnership working between practitioners and with parents and carers.
- Equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, ensuring that every child is included and supported.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage children work towards the Early Learning Goals which they should have at the end of the academic year in which they turn five.

Overarching principles

There are four guiding principles that shape practice in early years settings:-

- Every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- Children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**.

- Children learn and develop well in **enabling environments**, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/ or carers.
- **Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.** The framework covers the education and care of all children in Early Years provision including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

The areas of learning and development

There are seven areas of learning and development in the Early Years Foundation stage, three prime areas and four specific areas. All the areas of learning are important and interconnected. The areas are crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

The three prime areas

- **Communication and language** development within a rich language environment where they develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.
- **Physical development** where children are active and interactive, developing co-ordination, control and movement. We help children to understand the importance of physical activities and to make healthy choices in relation to food.
- **Personal, social and emotional development** involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, others and to form positive relationships and develop respect for each other. Develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings. To understand appropriate behaviour in groups and have confidence in their own abilities.

The specific areas:-

- **Literacy** development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children will access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest.
- **Mathematics** involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems and to describe shapes, space and measures.
- **Understanding the world** involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places and technology and the environment.
- **Expressive arts and design** involves the children exploring and playing with a wide range of media and materials as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art music, movement, dance, role play and design and technology.

Each area of learning and development is delivered through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of child initiated and adult-led activity. Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems and relate to others.

Children learn by leading their own play and by taking part in play which is guided by adults. There is a balance between activities led by children and activities led or guided by adults. Activities are a response to the child's emerging needs and interest and we guide their development through warm, positive interaction.



How will I know how my child is doing?

- We constantly assess the children and this information helps us to build up a profile on your child. The assessments are based on observations and everyday class activities. We use this information to plan effectively, monitor progress and build on children's prior learning. You will be able to access these observations online (Tapestry) and contribute by letting us know the things your child is able to do at home using your own parent account.
- Children's progress will be assessed against the Foundation Stage Profile.
- During the year there will be opportunities for you to come into school and discuss your child's progress, both at formal parent's evenings and informally with the class teachers.
- You will also receive a written report at the end of the Reception year (Foundation Stage). If you have any concerns about your child, please let the class teachers know as soon as possible.
- Acorns Class also has a page on the school website with regular updates on learning.

What does my child need to wear and bring to school?

All children are expected to wear a school uniform. Your child will need:

- White polo shirt
- Green sweatshirt/cardigan with school logo
- Black trousers, black skirt or pinafore dress and green and white check dress in the summer months (optional)
- Black or grey socks/tights
- Black shoes—with Velcro/strap (no laces or buckles, no trainers)
- Wellies and a sunhat (to remain at school)
- Waterproof coat

Your child will need a P.E. Kit that stays in school in a drawstring bag. We will send home kits for a wash during the holidays. Your child will need:

- Black shorts and a house team coloured t-shirt (Red, Yellow, Green or Blue)
- Trainers or plimsolls (please also provide socks if your child has come in tights).
- A green Probus School hoodie (optional).
- Green Probus School drawstring P.E bag (optional)

Your child will also need a green school book bag that comes to school with them every day. It must be a book bag rather than a back pack as your child's reading book and homework folder will need to be kept flat and secure.



Finally, your child will need to bring a water bottle (labelled) to school everyday with fresh water in. It is essential for children's health and wellbeing that they keep hydrated throughout the day.

All uniform items are available from Keywear Uniform, 2 Church Walk, Truro or online at www.keywearuniforms.co.uk

It is very much appreciated when all school clothing is clearly labelled including shoes - all school sweatshirts and shoes look alike! The wearing of jewellery, other than stud earrings is not permitted and long hair needs to be tied back.

Change of Clothes: Please provide a spare set of clothing for your child, including a pair of school trousers/leggings, a white t-shirt and two sets of pants and socks. These can be put inside a plastic carrier bag inside your PE bag.

Toys: Please discourage your child from bringing toys to school. They can cause disputes and children can become distressed if they are damaged or lost. Personal toys also hinder children from accessing the activities provided at school.

School Lunches

Children are welcome to bring either a packed lunch or have a school lunch. We simply ask that packed lunches are as healthy as possible (no sweets or fizzy drinks allowed). All children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage One (up to the end of Year 2) are entitled to a Free School Meal each day. School Lunch menus are available to view on the school website. Parents will be able to record what lunch choice their child would like on a sheet displayed in the playground every morning.

What can I do to help my child?

Your child is learning every day, no matter how young they are. It is never too early to share books, talk with children and count together during everyday activities.

You can prepare your child for reading by sharing books, reading to him/her, talking about what might happen next etc. Draw attention to the words so they begin to realise that the print tells the story to accompany the pictures.

If your child is used to handling mark making tools such as pens, crayons and pencils, you may wish to start writing their name with them (capital letter followed by all lowercase letters e.g. Sam). At first your child can trace or copy and then move on to writing alone.

Once children are ready, they are given a reading book, which we will change three times a week. You will also be given a little yellow reading record in which you can comment on your child's

reading. You are encouraged to write comments about when you've read at home and how your child has got on. Please do, it helps the teacher to know which books you've enjoyed together, which you did not like and how well you feel your child reads.

Reading is one of the most valuable activities you can do to help your child. Children must practise the skills that they are learning at school. Reading needs to happen as often as possible.

Can I get more involved?

We welcome parents into school to help with just about anything (subject to a DBS check).

There will also be an opportunity to join the Parents and Teachers Association and become involved in fund raising through discos, sponsored and social events etc. If you feel that you can offer any help at all then please speak to your child's teacher or any member of staff. We would be pleased to see you.

All about me book

You will receive an 'All about me' book in the post. This is an empty workbook that we would like you to fill with photos and information about your child and the things that are important to them. This will help us to get to know your child and support the settling process. For example, you could add photos of your child and family or pets. Let us know about the activities your child especially likes doing or the outings you have over the summer holidays. We find the children love to share these books with us and others. We leave them out in the classroom and children regularly refer to them over the year. If your child is feeling upset, looking at the pictures of their family really helps them to feel more settled.

Is my little one ready for school?

When your child starts school, they will need to be able to use the toilet independently, wipe, and wash their hands. You can help them by ensuring that they can fasten and unfasten the clothes that they are wearing.

It is very helpful if your child is able to dress and undress themselves for P.E. lessons.

The children are also encouraged to put on waterproof trousers and jackets by themselves when playing outside with sand and water etc.

Can your child?....

- ✓ Express their needs appropriately
- ✓ Use the toilet independently
- ✓ Wash and dry hands
- ✓ Blow their nose
- ✓ Sit up at a table
- ✓ Eat their packed lunch properly
- ✓ Dress and undress themselves
- ✓ Sit quietly to listen to a story
- ✓ Wait patiently
- ✓ Share and take turns
- ✓ Tidy up things they have used
- ✓ Say goodbye with a smile !!!!!!!



We hope you have found the information in this booklet useful.

If you have any further queries, please do contact us via the school email address.

We are really looking forward to meeting you all in September!